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A NEW SPECIES OF POLYCHAETOUS ANNELID FROM URUGUAY, APHRODITA MAGNA

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A NEW SPECIES OF POLYCHAETOUS ANNELID FROM URUGUAY, APHRODITA MAGNA

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While engaged in the study of the fur-seal and other fisheries of Uruguay, Dr. Hugh M. Smith, former United States Commissioner of Fisheries, secured a large specimen of *Aphrodita* at Cape Polonia, on December 6, 1922. This specimen, sent me for determination by the authorities of the United States National Museum, proves to be a hitherto undescribed species.

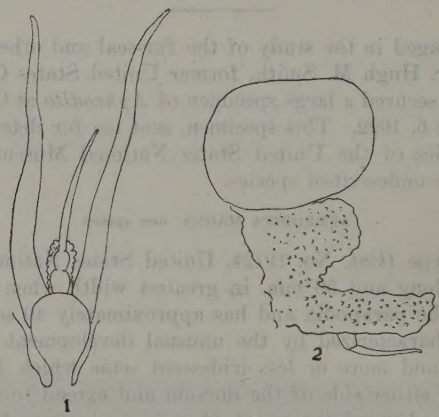
APHRODITA MAGNA, new species

The holotype (Cat. No. 19124, United States National Museum) is 111 mm. long and 50 mm. in greatest width when measured to the tips of the parapodia and has approximately 40 somites. Dorsally it is characterized by the unusual development of the large dark-brown and more or less iridescent setae which form a dense fringe along either side of the dorsum and extend to a distance of fully 25 mm. beyond the point of their emergence from the felt. From 10 to 15 of these large setae occur in each somite. The felty covering is very dense and tough, covering the dorsal surface in a band from 25 to 30 mm. wide, and filling all of the spaces between the large setae. The ventral surface has no very noticeable median furrow and has a granular appearance due to the presence of an immense number of globular or oval papillæ which are slightly darker in color than the general surface of the body.

The prostomium (fig. 1) is roughly pear-shaped with the broader end anterior and the narrow portion continued posteriorly as a parallel-sided area which merges with the first somite. When first exposed by the removal of the dorsal felt a single pair of eyes could be seen on the side of the prostomium. After standing for some time in alcohol these became invisible. The cirrophore of the median

tentacle is slightly constricted at the base and divided by a constriction into a proximal and a distal portion, of which the former is the larger. The style is slender and is about one and one-half times the length of the prostomium. The facial caruncle is very large and the palps are unusually well developed.

The first parapodium lies close to the prostomium and is about equal to it in length. The notopodium is larger than the neuropodium and irregularly lobed. A slender dorsal cirrus arises from a heavy cirrophore situated a little below the dorsal margin. The neuropodium is two-lobed and carries a cirrus similar in form to the dorsal one with its cirrophore on the posterior face of the neuropodium. A single acicula comes to the surface between the two lobes. The second parapodium is markedly different from the first



FIGS. 1 AND 2.—1, ANTERIOR END ×7.5. THE LARGE FACIAL TUBERCLE IS SHOWN UNDER THE MEDIAN TENTACLE. 2, FOURTH PARAPODIUM ×2. THE ELYTRON IS BENT SO AS TO LIE PARALLEL WITH THE VERTICAL FACE OF THE PARAPODIUM

and the two lobes are sharply separated from one another. The neuropodium is long and cylindrical, obliquely truncated at the end, and has a few dark-brown setae. The notopodium expands distally from a narrow base and carries the large milk-white smooth elytron. In the notopodium are a few of the dark-brown setae which extend dorsally through the felt, and a few slender ones.

The fourth parapodium (fig. 2) has a long cylindrical notopodium like the second but longer. A slender ventral cirrus arises from a heavy cirrophore. The rounded notocirrus has at the apex a tuft of the slender setae and dorsally some of the heavy brown ones. The elytron (foreshortened in the drawing) is smooth, nearly circular in outline, and rather delicate. Later somites show an increase in the length of the parapodia, followed by a gradual decrease toward the posterior end of the body. There are 15 pairs of elytra.

The neuropodial setae differ from one another only in size and color and their arrangement is characteristic. At the anterior end of the dorsal margin of the obliquely truncated outer end of the neuropodium the colorless acicula comes to the surface. Posterior to this two large dark-brown setae protrude in such a fashion that they form with the acicula an equilateral triangle. Ventral to these is a horizontal row of not more than four similar but smaller setae, and ventral to these and parallel with them is a second row which may have as many as seven setae. These are more slender than the dorsal ones but in other respects are similar to them.

The large dorsal setae resemble the ventral ones in form but are much larger. The smaller ones, which form a dense tuft at the apex of the notopodium, are slender and threadlike with sharp points.